

6.0 Implementation, Management, Monitoring and Oversight

The Trustee Council has the ultimate authority and responsibility for the successful implementation and completion of the restoration projects. For the restoration alternatives, however, assistance will be provided by various groups and individuals for the implementation, management and monitoring of the projects.

The Trustee Council will allocate funds to the California State Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy for the acquisition of land and the establishment of conservation easements. The negotiations with willing sellers and real estate transactions will be accomplished by these two Conservancies. The Trustee Council will have approval authority on parcels acquired with Council funds. The management and monitoring aspects of acquired lands will not be paid for with Council funds. However, the Trustee Council will have the opportunity to provide input and to approve of the management and monitoring plans for lands acquired with Council funds. There may be opportunities, however, where invasive non-native plant species control, grant funded restoration projects, information and education programs, and/or watershed evaluation and monitoring can occur on or in relation to lands acquired with Council funds. In these situations, the Council would have more of an oversight role in the management and monitoring of these programs. The Trustee Council and the Conservancies are committed to the restoration, permanent protection and wise management of lands acquired in the Santa Clara River watershed. Upon the cessation of the Trustee Council, the parent agencies, namely the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, will assume oversight jurisdiction and authority. This oversight authority is to ensure that properties acquired and conservation easements established with Council funds are properly and effectively protected, restored and managed for fish and wildlife and their associated habitats, in perpetuity.

The Trustee Council will allocate funds to another group who will coordinate the invasive non-native plant species control restoration program. It is anticipated that the Ventura County Resource Conservation District will be the primary coordinator of such an effort, through the Arundo Task Force, partnering with other groups and individuals such as the Forest Service, the Center for Natural Lands Management and private landowners. It will require a long-term commitment of resources by all partners. It is anticipated that an endowment will be established to fund such a long-term endeavor. The management and monitoring of an invasive non-native plant species control program will be the responsibility of the Resource Conservation District and its partners. It is likely that invasive plant species will never be completely eliminated from the watershed, however, invasive species control is the goal. Success criteria will be defined and program success will be determined by the Resource Conservation District, the Trustee Council and other partners. The Trustee Council will have the responsibility, along with other contributors, for oversight of the program to ensure success and completion over the long-term.

For the restoration project grants program, the Trustee Council will provide a notice for the submittal of proposed restoration project proposals from the public. The Council will develop criteria by which to evaluate and select restoration project proposals. Once the projects are selected, they will be implemented and completed with Trustee Council oversight. Each project will include performance and success criteria by which to determine project completion. This

restoration project alternative may be partnered with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program for administration and implementation.

Although the Trustee Council will fund and coordinate with other partners in order to implement an information and education program, the Council has the oversight responsibility to ensure that the educational projects are completed. The educational program may include such projects as partnering with a school group to develop a curriculum, a consultant to create an interpretive display or the Resource Conservation District to establish a volunteer stewardship program for invasive non-native species control. The Trustee Council will seek assistance from partners having expertise in the educational field to develop, implement, manage, monitor and determine success of the educational programs.

The Trustee Council has the oversight responsibility to ensure that the watershed evaluation and monitoring efforts are implemented and are successful. The Council will fund and coordinate with other partners when appropriate to implement, manage and monitor projects, and determine when success is achieved or when the projects are complete.

The Santa Clara River Trustee Council is responsible for the development of the Restoration Plan and the allocation of funds for the implementation of the Restoration Plan. The Trustee Council is also responsible for oversight and monitoring of the restoration efforts to ensure the satisfactory and successful completion of the restoration activities.